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Review of *Warriors in Uniform: The Legacy of American Indian Heroism* by Herman J. Viola

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Warriors in Uniform: The Legacy of American Indian Heroism. By Herman J. Viola. Foreword by Carson Walks Over Ice. Introduction by Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2008. 215 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, index. \$30.00.

This book celebrates the military contributions of American Indians in United States wars. It is a fluently written, although mainly descriptive, overview of American Indian participation stretching from the American Revolution to the present War on Terrorism. Visually, everything is stunning; the illustrations are numerous and impressive. At the beginning the narrative sufficiently describes some of the main events of various conflicts and Native participation, but as the book progresses closer to the present day the often very interesting personal stories of American Indian soldiers take much more space, so much that they seem to leave too little room for the general description of the wars (causes, major battles, or end results). Throughout, the book explains Native willingness to enlist as a consequence of warrior tradition and patriotism. Although military profession has an important role in the heritage and culture of many tribes, a critical reader wanting to dig deeper into the psyche of American Indian soldiers might think that this explanation is too simplistic. Also, some readers might dislike the book's sometimes overtly patriotic tone. There is very little on the horrors and injustices of war and hardly anything critical on some of the most controversial recent wars, like Vietnam or Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, war comes out primarily as an honorable and positive undertaking.

There is much Great Plains content in this volume. Representatives of many tribes, especially the Crow, appear throughout. However, it is regrettable that the Pawnee scouts are not discussed in any detail. The conflict along the Bozeman Trail and portions of the Great Sioux War, arguably some of the most famous wars in Plains history, are included. Of course the book discusses the "usual suspects" of American Indian soldiers: Apache scouts; Navajo code talkers; and Ira Hayes, an Akimel O'odham (Pima) famous for the flag raising picture taken at Iwo Jima. The numerous personal stories form perhaps the most fascinating part of the book. Among the most intriguing are the sections on Joseph Medicine Crow (Crow) and Brummett Echohawk (Pawnee), both veterans of World War II. It was exciting to learn, for instance, how American Indian soldiers counted coup in World Wars or to read about powwows held in Iraq. Undoubtedly, this book is best suited for the general reader, but professional historians should find it of interest as well. In all, the volume tells an important story in a way that manages to be informative, entertaining, and accessible to a wide audience.

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